



Where Guests are Welcome and Members are Encouraged!

March Meeting Events

March 2014

TIME: Sunday, March 23rd - 2:00 PM

PLACE: UF Entomology/Nemotology Building, Natural Area Drive east of the Performing Arts Center on Hull Road, U of F. **OR** the 5th left turn on Archer Road coming East from 34th Street.

PROGRAM: At this meeting:

Ron Schoenau will share his experiences as a longtime bromeliad enthusiast, perhaps comparing and contrasting some of his favorite genera. We will continue planning for the workshop in April. Please be present to help.

April 27th: Bromeliad Workshop, here in Gainesville, to include our new membership drive. Flyers are being sent out or will be handed out at the March meeting for members to distribute. Start thinking about where you can leave them so we have a great interest in our workshop. Looking forward to having more new members.

GBS Officers and Staff: (There has been a switch in officers: President & VP)

President:	Sandy Burnett	352-376-2040	sandyjo@gmail.com
Vice-President	Woods NeSmith	850-878-8769	kalterhund51@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Lorene Junkin	352-375-0322	lorenepaul@mindspring.com
Secretary:	Jean Thomas	352-213-9058	jean.thomas@ars.usda.gov
Newsletter Editor:	Hjordis Owens	352-486-3998	hjordis@bellsouth.net
Librarian:	TBA		

February 23, 2014

Gainesville Bromeliad Society: February meeting “Minutes”

The meeting was called to order just after 2 PM on Sunday, February 23rd, and was conducted by our vice president, Sandy Burnett. The meeting began with people bringing plants for “show-and-tell” about their most and least favorite bromeliads - our program for this month. A wide diversity of bromeliads was presented and there was only one that overlapped with another. Sandy invited Bobby to begin.

Bobby Ing brought quite a few species of *Tillandsia* mounted on pieces of wood and then hung for display on a circular piece of hardware cloth. He spoke about how each type had its own needs for water and how important it was to be sensitive to this. Higher elevation plants, and some of the bright red flowered *Tillandsia* can be too hard to grow- and will die. Some of the species he presented were *T. streptophylla*, *T. ionantha*, *T. fuchsia* var. *gracilis*, *T. tectorum* (from high in the mountains, very white and fuzzy) and *T. bulbosa*, with red flowers.

Nancy Mason also brought a *T. bulbosa*. Her plant was grown more compactly; each plant was smaller and had more narrow leaves. It was really interesting to see the difference that the growth habit made in the same species. Mary White showed us a plant that had been amazingly tolerant and had thus earned her “favorite” label. David Silverman brought a nice *Cryptanthus*, ‘*Elaine*’, which has a spreading habit, and compared it to *Billbergia*, which grows straight up.

Ron Schoenau told us about a type of *Bromelia* that is actually used as fencing in some places because the spines on the plant grow in both directions. He showed us 2 different species of *Tillandsia*, *T. guatemalensis* and *T. liboldiana*, which demonstrated the wide spectrum of blooms one can see in that genus. He also showed us a *T. cyanea* or ‘pink quill’, which is prolific and easy to grow, blooming with a pink fan and big blue flowers. He brought a *Vriesia* ‘*purple cockatoo*’ and told us about Irvin Worthman, who hybridized many plants during his lifetime. Another *Vriesia*, ‘*mon petit*’, was shown along with an *Aechmea corvata*; all were beautiful.

Nancy Mason showed us a cultivar of *Aechmea*, ‘*coppertone*’, which had bloomed for about 2 months. Her least favorite was a small *Neoregalia* that didn’t flower or “color up”. She said that her favorites were the ones that look the best, such as a nice *Orthophytum copperphyllum* growing well in a basket. She spoke to us about the concept of “growing hard”, in full sun with no fertilizer, which can be much better for a plant’s coloration. Nancy also brought a large *Neoregalia* for the silent auction table.

Peggy Mixon showed a *Cryptanthus* that will get pink but doesn’t look so great this time of year. She brought a *Neoregalia* ‘*purple star*’ as one her favorites because it is very purple even in the winter. She also showed a *Quesnalia testudo* that has a turtle-shaped bloom, which stays for a long time. Its bloom is much brighter when grown under an oak tree; it will be a paler red when grown in full sun. Sandy Burnett showed us a nice staghorn fern growing together with a *Tillandsia* on a piece of live oak bark.

Howard Frank brought us a book instead of a plant. The volume was purchased in Brazil and is written in Portuguese. The author, Rowling White, described the bromeliads of Santa Catarina, Brazil, and included 122 of his beautiful watercolor/drawing illustrations of these plants. Howard explained that a particular species of the *Anopheles* mosquito, subgenus *curtacea*, lived only in bromeliad tank water. Because this mosquito was a vector for malaria, the jungle area around each town was leveled in a circle 1 km in diameter, in order to control the epidemic. Many of the plants illustrated could be rare or extinct by now.

We paused for refreshments and to make bids on several plants offered in a silent auction.

Sandy brought the meeting back to order and spoke to us about our workshop, coming up in April. She spoke about last year's successful event and that several new members have started coming as a result of the workshop. In addition, about \$600 was generated from plant sales. Nancy, Peggy, Chris, and Lois all gave presentations of about 15 minutes each. She requested volunteers to offer to speak at this year's event. We will offer a nice flier to attendees; we'll have a "meet & greet" area with refreshments and plant sales outside, and will keep the room available for speakers' presentations. Peggy offered to sign up new members at the workshop and to help as a cashier. Jean agreed to help with the flier.

Ron Schoenau will speak with us on March 23rd about his experiences with bromeliads over the last 39 years. We will also spend time working out details of the workshop to be held on April 27th.

We finished the meeting around 4 PM with a number drawing for door prizes of bromeliads.

Jean Thomas, Secretary



Send me some of your photos to show in our newsletter.

You can also send in any information, hints, experiences, jokes??? Anything!

